

Dr. Houshmand

I just wanted to make a few comments regarding the unfortunate events that have occurred in the past week at Rowan with the Athletic Department.

First of all it has been a long standing policy that all student athletes are to be properly attired for practice and games. Practice attire is shorts and a t-shirt or tank top, which is provided by the athletic department, unless the coach doesn't feel they are necessary, which by the way has always been the case with cross country & Track & Field. Coaches are responsible for explaining the policies and enforcing them.

We have never permitted or scheduled more than one team to practice in the same venue at the same time. (If there was an occasion that this did occur, all athletes understood and knew they were to be properly attired.) With the stadium football & field hockey have balls flying everywhere. With football you have over 135 individuals on the field and this is a major safety factor. To permit any activity on the track at the times, when these teams are practicing on the field, is ridiculous and you are asking for trouble. It is a safety issue.

We remind the student athletes regularly that it is a privilege to participate in intercollegiate athletic, not a right. They are representing the university and they are expected to abide by the policies that we set forth and those of the NCAA.

In addition, assistant coaches are to be a support for the head coach not a detriment. Their job is not to instigate controversy with the players, they are to support the head coach and the athletic department 100%, whether they agree or not. That is called being a "TEAM" player. For an individual to pass on false information and then encourage students to voice their concerns negatively on social media is an absolute disgrace and discredit to this university. And it should not be tolerated.

As an alum and former Athletic Director I was extremely disappointed in the comments put forth by the University. You basically sold the athletic department down the river. All that needed to be said was the comments on social media were false and the university is looking into the matter and the issue will be handled and resolved. That would have shown support for the department and the athletic administration. Your comments did not show that.

I am in North Jersey working for the NCAA this weekend and I cannot tell you the number of comments and things that are being said about the department and the university. I believe in the athletic department and what they stand for and this is not a gender issue. I guarantee one thing you will see from this and that is a united athletic department.

Joy Solomen

**Crawford, Elyse G**

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**From:** Solomen, Joy L.  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 11, 2018 6:31 PM  
**To:** President Houshmand  
**Cc:** Zazzali, Robert  
**Subject:** Issue - Athletic Department  
**Attachments:** President Letter.doc

Joy Solomen